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GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
March 16, 2009

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Governor

Testimony Supporting

H. B. No. 6382 AN ACT CONCERNING COMPUTER CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.

H. B. No. 6384 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS.

S. B. No. 844 AN ACT CONCERNING METHAMPHETAMINES

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of my proposals to enhance law enforcement efforts in our state and make Connecticut a safer place of all of our citizens.

HB 6382 will strengthen current law to address an area of technology that is not currently covered by statute to address individuals that solicit minors over the internet and then coerce them into providing naked images of themselves or into performing sexual acts over webcams or cell phones. The bill will make it easier for law enforcement to provide notification to an individual, whose information has been obtained through an ex-parte order. In most cases after the information has been obtained contact is made with the individual. This would allow law enforcement to supply the individual with notification first hand during this contact rather than later by mail.

HB 6384 will implement the requirements of the Federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 while making a number of other significant improvements to the registry system, which include:

- Establishing a three tiered categorization system for sexual offenses.
- Establishing registry terms as 15-year registrations for Tier 1 offenses, 25-year registrations for Tier 2 offenses and lifetime registrations for Tier 3 offenses.

- Establishing new requirements for the registrant to report in person to the registry between one and four times per year depending on the individual registrant's tier designation.
- Establishing additional reporting requirements that include the name and address where a registrant is employed, the license plate number and vehicle description of any vehicle that a registrant owns or operates, name of their probation or parole officer, and telephone or cell phone numbers.
- Requiring registrants to obtain and maintain a Connecticut driver's license or non-driver identification card.
- Expanding registration to individuals who had previously eluded registration as a result of a release into the community that predated statutory requirements. Such individuals that have been convicted or found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect of a sex offense and reenter the criminal justice system for any crime would be required to register.
- Expanding the list of educational institutions that if registrants worked in or attended, such registrants must report to the registry. The expansion captures many of those locations where children are found outside of school.
- Making it a class D felony to aid a sex offender in the violation of registry requirements.
- Requiring registrants to notify the Department of Public Safety if they are required to evacuate their homes due to emergency situations such as floods, storms or fires and it requires a registered sex offender to notify upon their arrival the management of any emergency shelter they are placed in as a result of the emergency situation.
- Requiring the Department of Public Safety to make available on the registry Internet website links to resources on sexual assault prevention, education, advocacy, counseling and victims services.
- Additionally, this proposal forms a Sex Offender Registry Policy Advisory Committee that is to meet quarterly beginning 7/1/09.

SB 844 will define "methamphetamine-type substances" and make the manufacture and sale of the substances subject to the same criminal penalties for dealing similar controlled substances that are currently in place. The bill specifies certain requirements to be met for retail sale of any drug product or combination drug product containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine. This measure will capture within the criminal penalty statutes for dealing controlled drugs and narcotics all substances that are currently being processed, manufactured and sold by drug dealers.

I hope you will give these bills your favorable consideration.